

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [0061] with the following amended paragraph:

[0061] **Figure 2** is a preliminary partial nucleotide (SEQ ID NO:1) and deduced amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:2) of clone ~~32~~J2 encoding a caspase-8 interacting protein as obtained from a cDNA clone.

Please replace paragraph [0068] with the following amended paragraph:

[0068] **Figure 7** shows the alignment of the 574 amino acids of the open reading frame derived from the deduced amino acid sequence of clone p74 (denoted cloned) (SEQ ID NO:6) compared to the 1428 amino acids of the open reading frame derived from the deduced amino acid sequence of PAC clone RPCI5-1057I20 (denoted deduced) (SEQ ID NO:7).

Please replace paragraph [0262] with the following amended paragraph:

[0262] A B-cell library (Durfee, T et al 1993) and a Jurkat T-cell library were screened. Table 2 depicts the initial characterization of the ~~first~~first group of clones.